

Message

What you need to know to start your day.

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Environment & Energy Report
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To: Bertrand, Charlotte
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Subject: First Move: Pot's
Environmental Impacts Catch
State Regulators' Eye

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Pot's Environmental Impacts Catch State Regulators' Eye



By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Legalized pot's heavy use of pesticides, energy, and water, while also generating tons of plant and packaging waste, are [getting state regulators' attention](#), Brenna Goth and Tripp Baltz write.

- States like Michigan, where the Marijuana Regulatory Agency will begin accepting business licenses in November, have adopted rules on industrial wastewater, water resources, and land management for cannabis growers. Illinois, which legalized recreational marijuana this year, will factor environmental planning, including conservation and efficiency efforts, into its scoring of cultivation center applications.
- Colorado is tweaking some elements of its marijuana environmental and sustainability regulations after becoming the first state to allow recreational marijuana use in 2014. And New Mexico, where decriminalization took effect July 1, just launched a committee to work through environmental and other aspects of the legalization of recreational pot in advance of the state's next legislative session.

FIRING OF CALIFORNIA OIL, GAS REGULATOR HAS DRILLERS ON EDGE

California oil producers are bracing for a crackdown on drilling after Gov. Gavin Newsom fired the chief regulator in charge of issuing permits, Emily C. Dooley and Robert Tuttle write.

- Two environmental groups published a report accusing the state's oil and gas agency of boosting the number of drilling and hydraulic fracking permits issued this year, and found that agency staff owned shares in some of the companies they regulated.
- The oil and gas industry is girding for big changes, given Newsom's opposition to fracking, which is legal in California but may soon face restrictions.

MICHIGAN FRESHMAN TACKLES MANUFACTURING, SUSTAINABILITY

Manufacturing and environmental sustainability should go hand in hand, according to Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.), Maya Goldman writes.



Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.) and Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) talk to fellow members of Congress.
(Photographer: Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

- The answer to balancing manufacturing and sustainability might lie in remanufacturing, or creating products using a combination of reused, repaired, and new parts, Stevens said.

- As chair of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee's research and technology panel, Stevens has been active on recycling. She's pushing the EPA to prioritize funding to develop a national recycling strategy.

WHAT ELSE WE'RE WATCHING

- Global food security faces unprecedented threats from the growing impacts of climate change and the exploitation of land and freshwater, according to a leaked draft of an upcoming U.N. report. The impacts will vary by region, the report says, but the consequences of land use and degradation on countries' economies are wide-ranging and expected to increase.
- The House Small Business Committee holds a field hearing in Wheeling, Ill. on how compliance with environmental reviews can ensure the longevity of the Small Business Administration's disaster program.
- New Hampshire's Supreme court is expected to announce whether Eversource's Northern Pass project can go forward. The project would deliver 1,200 megawatts of hydropower from Canada into New England.

DAILY RUNDOWN

Top Stories

EPA Says It Won't Ban Pesticide Chlorpyrifos

The Environmental Protection Agency said it won't ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos. The agency's decision came the same day as a court-imposed deadline to respond to the merits of a lawsuit from a coalition of environmental and farmworker groups.

New York Governor Signs Pave-Setting Climate Legislation

New York State is embarking on the most aggressive climate action plan in the nation.

Energy/Natural Resources

Bipartisan Bill Could Spur Solar, Wind Power on Public Lands

Renewable energy development on federal land in the West could get a boost under a bipartisan bill that aims to create a revenue-sharing system for wind, solar, and geothermal power on public lands.

Texas Propane Group Must Revise Suit Challenging Houston Code

The Texas Propane Gas Association will have to try again to convince a trial court that it has the right to challenge Houston's new propane storage and handling restrictions, a Texas appeals court said.

Environment

Ohio Bans 'Rights of Nature' Pollution-Fighting Lawsuits

Ohio residents are now barred from filing lawsuits against polluters on behalf of the Buckeye State's natural resources.

Obama Climate Rule Suit Should End, EPA, Challengers Say

It is time for the bitter legal fight over Obama-era power plant carbon controls to come to an end, the EPA and state, utility, and other industry challengers told a federal appeals court.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- **All Day • Solar •** Community Solar Power Summit in Philadelphia features state lawmakers, industry executives, and others.
- **4 p.m. • Alaska •** National Weather Service holds Alaska climate outlook briefing.

AROUND THE WEB

- President Trump renominated Aurelia Skipwith as head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Skipwith was nominated in October 2018, but never got a Senate vote before the end of the last Congress. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt praised her as a "leader within the department," but environmentalists have criticized her lack of experience and ties to industry.
- The Interior Department announced that its ocean energy agency will offer nearly 78 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for a regionwide lease sale Aug. 21, the fifth offshore sale under the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The sale will include approximately 14,585 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's western, central and eastern planning areas.
- Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) wants to reinstate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Climate and Health Program.

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